

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A textured composite material having a surface area and comprising a continuous or integral fibrous outer layer and a contiguous adhesive layer, wherein the continuous or integral fibrous outer layer is formed from a fabric that is initially arranged substantially parallel to the contiguous adhesive layer, wherein the surface area comprises depressed areas and elevated areas, wherein the fibers of the fibrous outer layer in the depressed areas are anchored in the adhesive layer and wherein at least some of the fibers on the outer surface of the fibrous outer layer in the elevated areas are unbonded to the adhesive layer, wherein after the depressed and elevated areas are formed the fibrous outer layer and the top and bottom surfaces of the adhesive layer are non-planar and follow substantially the same contour, wherein a combined density of the fibrous outer layer and the adhesive layer in the depressed areas is at least about 0.7 g/cm^3 , wherein a lateral distance between adjacent depressed areas in at least one direction is from about 1.5 mm to about 10 mm, and wherein the elevation of the elevated area, D, is greater than the thickness of fibrous layer, T_f , in the elevated area, and wherein the textured composite material is useable as a floor cover.
2. (Previously Presented) The textured composite of claim 1, wherein the lateral distance is between about 1.5 mm to about 4.0 mm.
3. (Previously Presented) The textured composite of claim 1, wherein the density of the fibrous outer layer and the adhesive layer in the depressed areas is at least 1.0 g/cm^3 .
4. (Previously Presented) The textured composite of claim 3, wherein the density is about 1.3 g/cm^3 or less.
5. (Original) The textured composite of claim 4, wherein the density is about 1.3 g/cm^3 .

6. (Original) The textured composite of claim 1, wherein within the depressed areas the fibers of the fibrous outer layer are substantially embedded in the adhesive layer.

7. (Original) The textured composite of claim 1, wherein within the depressed areas all the fibers of the fibrous outer layer are embedded in the adhesive layer.

8. (Previously Presented). The textured composite of claim 1, wherein within the depressed areas the adhesive layer penetrates through to at least a portion of the top of the fibrous layer.

9. (Original) The textured composite of claim 1, wherein within the depressed areas the fibers on the top surface of the fibrous outer layer are unbonded to the adhesive layer.

10. (Original) The textured composite of claim 1, wherein within the elevated areas the fibers positioned on the bottom surface of the fibrous outer layer are bonded to the adhesive layer.

11. (Original) The textured composite of claim 1, wherein within the elevated areas the fibers positioned on the bottom surface of the fibrous outer layer are unbonded to the adhesive layer.

12. (Previously Presented) The textured composite of claim 1, wherein the density of the unbonded fibrous outer layer is in the range of about 0.1 g/cm^3 to about 0.6 g/cm^3 .

13. (Original) The textured composite of claim 12, wherein the density is about 0.2 g/cm^3 .

14. (Original) The textured composite of claim 1, wherein the density of the peak regions of the elevated areas is substantially the same as the density of the fibrous outer layer.

15. (Original) The textured composite of claim 1, wherein a ratio of the elevation of the elevated area, D , to the thickness of fibrous layer, T_f , in elevated area is about 2.8 or less.

16. (Previously Presented) The textured composite of claim 1, wherein a ratio of the elevation

of the elevated area, D, to the thickness of fibrous layer, T_f , in elevated area is at least about 1.25.

17. (Previously Presented) The textured composite of claim 16, wherein said ratio is greater than about 1.5.

18. (Previously Presented) The textured composite of claim 1, wherein said ratio is greater than about 2.0.

19. (Original) The textured composite of claim 1, wherein the composite has a reverse side opposite the fibrous outer layer and the reverse side has an undulating profile.

20. (Original) The textured composite of claim 1, wherein the surface area further comprises transition areas disposed between the depressed areas and the elevated areas.

21. (Original) The textured composite of claim 20, wherein the density of the fibrous outer layer and the adhesive layer in the transition areas is less than 0.7 g/cm^3 and greater than about 0.2 g/cm^3 .

22. (Original) The textured composite of claim 1, wherein the fibrous outer layer has a different color than the adhesive layer, such that the surface area of the composite comprises multiple colors.

23. (Withdrawn) The textured composite of claim 1, wherein the textured composite material further comprises a backing layer.

24. (Withdrawn) The textured composite of claim 23, wherein the backing layer is a felt with a basis weight in the range of about 4 to about 30 oz/yd^2 and needle punched with a density of about 300 to about 1000 penetrations per inch.

25. (Withdrawn) The textured composite of claim 24, wherein the backing layer is needle punched from the bottom.

26. (Withdrawn) The textured composite of claim 25, wherein a thermoplastic binder layer is attached to the backing layer.

27. (Withdrawn) The textured composite of claim 24, wherein the backing layer comprises about 60% to about 90% polyester and about 10% to about 40% polyolefin.

28. (Withdrawn) The textured composite of claim 27, wherein the polyester comprises fibers having about 5 to about 25 denier per filament and the polyolefin comprises fibers having about 1 to about 3 denier per filament

29. (Withdrawn) The textured composite of claim 27, wherein the polyester fibers have a length of about 1.5 inches to about 6 inches and the polyolefin fibers have a length of about 0.5 inch to about 2 inches.

30. (Withdrawn) The textured composite of claim 23, wherein the backing layer and the adhesive layer are pre-integrated.

31. (Withdrawn) The textured composite of claim 30, wherein the backing layer and the adhesive layer are laminated by needling.

32. (Withdrawn) The textured composite of claim 31, wherein the materials of the backing and adhesive layers are substantially evenly blended and wherein the adhesive layer comprises about 20% to about 60% of the total weight of the combined weights of said two layers.

33. (Withdrawn) The textured composite of claim 32, wherein the backing layer comprises adhesive fibers.

34. (Withdrawn) The textured composite of claim 33, wherein the backing layer comprises about 40% to about 80% polyester and about 20% to about 60% polyolefin.

35. (Withdrawn) The textured composite of claim 23, wherein the surface area further comprises exposed areas of backing layer material each exposed area being peripherally surrounded by a depressed area.

36. (Withdrawn) The textured composite of claim 35, wherein the fibers of the fibrous outer layer have a color scheme and the backing layer has a color such that the exposed areas of backing layer material in combination with the color scheme of the fibrous outer layer impart to the textured composite material a pre-selected color-coordinated appearance.

37. (Withdrawn) The textured composite of claim 23, wherein the backing layer has a plurality of strata and each stratum being of a different color, and wherein the color of preselected stratum is exposed on the surface area of the composite.

38. (Original) The textured composite of claim 1, wherein the textured composite material further comprises a liquid impermeable layer.

39. (Previously Presented) The textured composite of claim 38, wherein the liquid impermeable layer is permeable to gas.

40. (Previously Presented) The textured composite of claim 38, wherein the liquid impermeable layer is impermeable to gas.

41. (Previously Presented) The textured composite of claim 1, wherein the adhesive layer is liquid permeable.

42. (Original) The textured composite of claim 1, wherein the fibrous outer layer comprises at least one non-woven layer.

43. (Original) The textured composite of claim 42, wherein the non-woven layer is stitch-bonded.

44. (Original) The textured composite of claim 1, wherein the fibrous outer layer comprises at least one woven layer.

45. (Original) The textured composite of claim 44, wherein a surface of the woven layer adjacent to the adhesive layer is raised.

46. (Original) The textured composite of claim 1, wherein the fibrous outer layer comprises at least one knit layer.

47. (Original) The textured composite of claim 46, wherein a surface of the knit layer adjacent to the adhesive layer is raised.

48. (Original) The textured composite of claim 1, wherein the fibrous outer layer comprises at least one lace layer.

49. (Original) The textured composite of claim 1, wherein the fibrous outer layer comprises an open layer and a closed layer.

50. (Original) The textured composite of claim 49, wherein the open layer is a lace layer.

51. (Original) The textured composite of claim 1, wherein the depressed areas are interconnected to form a first pattern on the surface area.

52. (Original) The textured composite of claim 51, wherein the first pattern comprises a plurality of parallel lines.

53. (Original) The textured composite of claim 51, wherein the first pattern comprises a plurality of wavy lines.

54. (Original) The textured composite of claim 52, wherein the first pattern comprises two intersecting groups of parallel lines.

55. (Original) The textured composite of claim 1, wherein the depressed areas comprise a second pattern of spaced apart depressed areas.

56. (Original) The textured composite of claim 1, wherein a plurality of central portions of the depressed areas are removed from the composite.

57. (Original) The textured composite of claim 56, wherein substantially all of the central portions are removed from the composite.

58. (Original) The textured composite of claim 1, wherein the fibrous outer layer comprises a spunlaced nonwoven fabric.

59. (Original) The textured composite of claim 58, wherein the spunlaced nonwoven fabric has a basis weight in the range of about 1 to about 5 oz/yd².

60. (Original) The textured composite of claim 58, wherein the spunlaced nonwoven fabric comprises fibers shorter than about 2 inches.

61. (Original) The textured composite of claim 58, wherein the spunlaced nonwoven fabric is a layered woodpulp/staple composite.

62. (Currently Amended) A textured composite material having a surface area and comprising a continuous or integral fibrous outer layer and a contiguous adhesive layer, wherein the surface area comprises an embossed, contoured surface with depressed areas and elevated areas on the surface area, wherein in the depressed areas the fibers of the fibrous outer layer are anchored in the adhesive layer, and within the elevated areas the fibers of the fibrous outer layer form loops upstanding from the adhesive layer and bridging two or more depressed areas, and wherein the top and bottom surfaces of the adhesive layer follow substantially the same contour, wherein the fibrous outer layer comprises thermoplastic fibers located adjacent to the adhesive layer, and

wherein the density of the depressed areas is greater than the density of the elevated areas wherein a combined density of the fibrous outer layer and the adhesive layer in the depressed areas is at least about 0.7 g/cm^3 .

wherein a lateral distance between adjacent depressed areas in at least one direction is from about 1.5 mm to about 10 mm.

wherein the elevation of the elevated area, D, is greater than the thickness of fibrous layer, T_f , in the elevated area, and

wherein the textured composite material is useable as a floor cover.

63-67. (Cancelled)

68. (Canceled)

69. (Currently Amended) The textured composite of claim [[68]] 62, wherein the density is at least 1.0 g/cm^3 .

70. (Currently Amended) The textured composite of claim [[68]] 62, wherein the density is about 1.3 g/cm^3 or less.

71. (Previously Presented) The textured composite of claim 62, wherein within the depressed areas the adhesive layer penetrates through to at least a portion of the top of the fibrous layer.

72. (Previously Presented) The textured composite of claim 62, wherein the density of the fibrous outer layer is in the range of about 0.1 g/cm^3 to about 0.6 g/cm^3 .

73. (Previously Presented) The textured composite of claim 62, wherein a ratio of the elevation of the elevated area, D, to the thickness of fibrous layer, T_f , in elevated area is greater than about 1.25.

74. (Previously Presented) The textured composite of claim 73, wherein said ratio is greater than about 1.50.

75. (Canceled)

76. (Previously Presented) The textured composite of claim 62, wherein the composite has a reverse side opposite the fibrous outer layer and the reverse side has an undulating profile.

77. (Previously Presented) The textured composite of claim 62, wherein the surface area further comprises transition areas disposed between the depressed areas and the elevated areas.

78. (Previously Presented--withdrawn) The textured composite of claim 62, wherein the textured composite material further comprises a backing layer.

79. (Previously Presented--withdrawn) The textured composite of claim 78, wherein the backing layer and the adhesive layer are pre-integrated.

80. (Previously Presented--withdrawn) The textured composite of claim 78, wherein the backing layer and the adhesive layer are laminated by needling.

81. (Previously Presented--withdrawn) The textured composite of claim 80, wherein the backing layer comprises adhesive fibers.

82. (Previously Presented--withdrawn) The textured composite of claim 78, wherein the surface area further comprises exposed areas of backing layer material each exposed area being peripherally surrounded by a depressed area.

83. (Previously Presented--withdrawn) The textured composite of claim 82, wherein the fibers of the fibrous outer layer have a color scheme and the backing layer has a color such that the exposed areas of backing layer material in combination with the color scheme of the fibrous outer layer impart to the textured composite material a pre-selected color-coordinated appearance.

84. (Previously Presented--withdrawn) The textured composite of claim 78, wherein the backing layer has a plurality of strata and each stratum being of a different color, and wherein the color of preselected stratum is exposed on the surface area of the composite.

85. (Previously Presented) The textured composite of claim 62, wherein the textured composite material further comprises a liquid impermeable layer.

86. (Previously Presented) The textured composite of claim 85, wherein the liquid impermeable layer is permeable to gas.

87. (Previously Presented) The textured composite of claim 85, wherein the liquid impermeable layer is impermeable to gas.

88. (Previously Presented) The texture composite of claim 62, wherein the adhesive layer is liquid permeable.

89. (Previously Presented) The textured composite of claim 62, wherein the depressed areas are interconnected to form a first pattern on the surface area.

90. (Previously Presented) The textured composite of claim 62, wherein a plurality of central portions of the depressed areas are removed from the composite.

91. (Previously Presented) The textured composite of claim 62, wherein the fibrous outer layer comprises a spunlaced nonwoven fabric.

92. (Previously Presented) The textured composite of claim 62, wherein the fibrous outer layer comprises thermoplastic fibers throughout the layer.

93. (Previously Presented) The textured composite of claim 62, wherein the fibrous outer layer is homogeneous.

94. (Previously Presented) The textured composite of claim 62, wherein the composite remains substantially flat in response to temperature change.

95. (Previously Presented) The textured composite of claim 1, wherein the composite remains substantially flat in response to temperature change.

96. (Canceled)

97. (Canceled)

98. (Canceled)